the bank, they set up Rajasthan Bank. Financial Services, an advertising company named Akshar Bharat, Bangar Finance Limited, BFL. Software Ltd., Mridula Commodities (Pvt.) Limited, Kaveri Vyapar Pvt. Limited, Swagatam Impax Pvt. Ltd., and Kshitij Exima Pvt. Ltd. and opened the accounts of these companies in the selected branches of the Bank of Rajasthan Limited.

Sir, after proclaiming their control over the bank, Bangars promoted many favoured officers and appointed many officers ignoring their disqualifications and handed over the control of main branches and department of the banks to them. Ten main branches of the bank including Chaurangi Road branch of Calcutta, Janpath and Karol bagh branches of New Delhi, Fort branch of Mumbai and the branches of Madras, Bangalore, M.I. Road and Jauhari branches of Jaipur were declared high tech branches and were put under direct control of his favoured managing director Shri N.M. Chauradia. The scam of more than Rs. 150 crores has mainly taken place in some of these branches of the Bank.

The national organisation of bank workers had time and again made complaints to higher officers of the bank and RBI on the regard; but this scam took place because no satisfactory action was taken in this regard. Therefore, through you, I would like to urge upon the Govt.. of India to present the actual position of the scam before the House after getting it enquired by CBI so that misappropriation of the public money could be checked immediately.

SHRI CHARIMAN LAL GUPTA : (Udhampur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to urge open the Govt. and Shri Joce Saheb to give a patient hearing to what i say. The tragedy of Amarnath Yatra took place during August last year in which around 300 people who come from different parts of the country were killed. A committee was constituted after that which presented its report but unfortunately could not be discussed in the House. The Ministry of Home Affairs released the report at the fag end of the session due to which it could not be discussed. I would like to request that the said report should be properly discussed in the House.

Secondly, it is my good luck that Finance Minister of Jammu and Kashmir is present in the Gallery today, therefore, my point would reach the Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir soon. We all know that when this incident occurred last year, it was stated by the State Govt. that it did not expect the influx of so many people and therefore this tragedy took place. The people all our the country are enchanted by the attraction of Amarnath. The People of the country have an attachment for Kashmir but they are unable to go there due to the condition prevailing there. This is the suitable occasion for the people of the different parts of the country when they come in a large number for the yatra. Therefore, the arrangement for this purpose should not be made temporarily. It is a very tectious journey unlike journeying Haridwara. It needs sufficient arrangements.

I request you that a waning should be given to Union as well as State Govt. to make immediate arrangements of all the necessary items. Last time, we could not provide even wireless sets. Lioson or coordination between armed and civilian services is necessary. If we do not start making arrangements in this regard immediately from now onwards, the yatra cannot become successful. We want this yatra to be successful and Kashmir should get the credit for it. But it is possible only when both the Governments are active in this regard and a fault proof arrangement should be made in consultation with the elected members of Parliament so that this yatra may become a success.

13.32 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Thirty Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.40 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Forty Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

[PROF. RITA VERMA *in the Chair*]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need to formulated a special plan for Disilting Pushkar Sarovar in Ajmer, Rajasthan.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : There is a famous pilgrim centre Pushkar in my Parliamentary constituency Ajmer (Rajasthan) which is important not only from the pilgrimage point but from the tourism points of view also. The silt carried by rain water – nullabs is deposited every year in Pushkar Sarovar due to which the sarovar has become Shallow and other natural resources of water have also dried up. As a result thereof, this holy lake does not have water during the summer season and thousands of pilgrims visiting this place are deprived of the holy dip.

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

Pushkar is also important from cultural, religions, historical, pilgrimage and tourism point of view. Millions of people from different parts of India come here to have a holy dip in the Sarovar. A large number of foreign tourists regularly visit this place. Siltation of such a secured lake and the emergence of drought like situation is not proper. The water of this lake has become polluted.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to get the Pushkar Sarovar desilted and formulate and implement special plan immediately to save if from pollution so as to ensure proper development of Pushkar.

(ii) Need to grant approval for setting up a Sugar Mill in Unnao District, U.P.

SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH (Unnao) : The Sugarcane growers is Unnao District have to face a lot of difficulties, the sugarcane growers have to take their cane to sugar mills which are located far away because there is no sugar mill in Unnao district and due to that very reason the farmers are gradually inclined to stop production of sugarcane.

I had earlier many times demanded in this House of setting up of a Sugar Mill in Unnao district, I had also received from the Ministry of Food that the proposal of setting up of a Sugar mill had been sent to the Ministry of Industry but I have not got any information from the above Ministry so far.

I, therefore, again request the Government that the Sanction for setting up a sugar mill in Unnao district of Uttar Pradesh may expeditiously be accorded.

(iii) Need to ensure remunerative prices for the Agricultural produce

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH (Meerut) : Ours is predominantly an agriculture country, when a farmer increases production of its crops is any part of the world, he is given all sorts of incentives but whenever the farmer of country increases its production in our country, he does not get sufficient remunerative prices. On the country, if a farmer produces more sugarcane, its prices fall down, if he increases the production of potatos, its prices come down, if the production of rubber increases, its prices show a downward trend, similarly it the production of cotton is boosted, its prices also come down because of which the farmer gets discouraged and the agriculture production registers a shortfall and as a result of which sometimes we face shortage of sugar is our country and sometimes we have shortage of foodgrains in the country. Due to this very reason, we had to import sugar in 1995 and similarly, we imported wheat during 1996-97. If the Government provides sufficient assistance to farmers on increasing production of their produce, there will be no shortfall in agricultural production in our country but we could export agriculture based produce on a permanent basis. I want to make two submission to prevent economic exploitation of the farmers of the country :

1. while making assessment of the production cost of agriculture produce, the interest accrued during the crops period may be added to the cost of land.

2. 80 per cent members in the Agriculture Price commission should be included from among farmers.

(iv) Need to open a Krishi Vigyan Kendra at Mayurbhanj, Orissa

[English]

KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA (Mayurbhanj) : Madam, as per the directions of the Government, Krishi Vigyan Kendras are being opened in many districts of the country of even in some of the districts of Orissa. But it is surprising that Mayurbhanj, one of the largest districts of the country, has been deprived of a Krishi Vigyan Kendra in spite of the repeated assurance given by successive Governments.

The setting up a Kendra in Mayurbhanj which consist of people mostly from tribal areas will certainly help in promoting the agriculture in the district and obviously will assist in generating employment to the jobless youth of the areas.

I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to take necessary steps for setting up a Krishi Uigyan Kendra at Mayurbhanj, Orissa, as early as possible.

(v) Need to establish a Permanent Engineering Wing at Arakha Kula in Puri district, Orissa, for regular desilting of Chilka lake

SHRI ANADI CHARAN SAHU (Cuttack) : Sir, Chilka is the largest salt water lake in Asia. It has varieties of fish. The Arakha Kula Muhan is the mouth of Chilka joining the sea. Because of silting of the mouth, there is reduction of the tidal influx of sea water. As sea water does not come regularly, it affects the marine species in Chilka. In addition, the land side coastline of Khurdha District and Puri District